



**omni**  
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

**2022-2023**  
***Annual Report***





Mission - Empowering children in a community faithful  
to the teachings of Maria Montessori.

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# REFLECTIONS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Welcome to Omni's 2023 Annual Report – a review of the past school year, a celebration of our accomplishments as a community and a formal thanks to the many generous volunteers and supporters whose time and talents make the Montessori experience come to life every day for all our students.

Over the past year, we embraced the theme community, which is especially fitting as we endeavor to rebuild connections in a post-pandemic world. To us, community means that we value every voice and celebrate our individual and cultural differences. Together we strive to demonstrate active engagement, gratitude and support through fostering a sense of belonging.

2022–2023 was a year in which we were able to return to many of our community building traditions and found ourselves preferring to be in-person as much as possible. Events like the Welcome Back Picnic, Harvest Festival, Friday Fun on the Playground, Annual Auction and the first Annual Pancake Breakfast served to foster a sense of one whole school community, bringing together students, parents, employees, grandparents, alumni and friends.

This was also a year of transition as we welcomed fifteen new employees, sponsored the Montessori training of four employees and experienced changes in the membership of both the Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees. We also established our All Day Montessori classroom which allowed us to serve the needs of twelve additional families. Finally, we adopted our 2022–2025 Strategic Plan which will guide us for the next several years, allowing us to expand our Blakeney Campus facilities to maximize our ability to empower children in a community faithful to the teachings of Maria Montessori.

Our accomplishments this year are the direct result of a supportive Board of Trustees, which was led by Ellen Olson. The Board has remained focused on Omni's future and what steps are necessary today to ensure that our school remains sustainable well into the future. I thank Diana Cabral, Nikki Eason, Nic Finelli, Katherine Gutierrez, Matt McCusker, Ellen Olson, Marie Watkins, Andy Shaw, Christy Trimmer, and Holly Trotter for their leadership, dedication and commitment to Omni.

I also thank you – every student, every employee, every parent, every grandparent, every alumnus, and every friend. Our school community is at the core of who we are as an organization and without the contributions of every single member, we would not be Omni Montessori School.

**With deep gratitude and appreciation,**  
Cindy Curry



# FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**Dear Omni Montessori School community,**

I wanted to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for your constant commitment and dedication to our school throughout this past year. As we continue to navigate the challenges and aftermath of a global pandemic, it has been heartwarming to see our community grow even stronger by building relationships and fostering a sense of togetherness, which is fitting as community is this year's theme.

I am honored to share with you some of the exceptional accomplishments of the Board of Trustees during the 2022-2023 school year. The Board of Trustees is thrilled to report that we have finalized our strategic plan, which will guide our growth and development over the next 3-5 years. Additionally, our community has expanded even further with the introduction of a new primary classroom, Dogwood, which has welcomed new families into the Omni community.

The Annual Giving Campaign was a tremendous success, with nearly 99% of the community participating. We are also deeply grateful for the generous sponsorships and donations we received from local businesses, parents, staff, alumni, and the Board at our annual Auction, The World Awaits, which makes an immediate impact on our school.

The Board has continued to fulfill its core responsibilities, such as financial stewardship and Head of School support, while also strengthening our ties to the community through various community-building opportunities led by our dedicated Parent Association officers, chairs, and volunteers, all in line with this year's theme.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the entire Omni Montessori School community. Your trust in our school to provide a Montessori education that empowers children in a community that upholds the teachings of Maria Montessori does not go unnoticed. You are the heartbeat of Omni, and we thank you for your continuous support and unwavering commitment to our school.

As the 2022-2023 school year draws to a close, the Board wishes to express our profound appreciation for our guides, assistants, staff, and administration. We recognize that without their steadfast dedication to our students, we would not witness the positive impact we see in our children every day.

Omni Montessori School is well-positioned for growth, and we are excited about the future. Our team of passionate guides, staff, and trustees are working hard towards expanding our mission to reach even more families.

Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to each member of the Omni Montessori School community. You inspire us every day with your commitment, passion, and love for our students and our school.

**Sincerely,**

Ellen Olson  
President, Board of Trustees  
Omni Montessori School

## **Officers:**

Board President - Ellen Olson  
Vice President - Katherine Gutierrez  
Secretary - Nic Finelli  
Treasurer - Holly Trotter

## **Members:**

Diana Cabral  
Cindy Curry (Administrative Representative)  
Nikki Eason  
Matt McCusker  
Andy Shaw  
Christy Trimmer  
Marie Watkins

# OMNI BY THE NUMBERS

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204 Number of students enrolled at  
Omni Montessori School.

167 Number of families who toured  
Omni Montessori School.

380 Number of admission inquiry  
forms received.



38 Number of tours conducted  
throughout the school year.

10 Number of students and staff  
who have completed the NC  
Certified Beekeeper program.

102 Number of plates sold at the  
AP and Upper Elementary  
Pancake Breakfast.

10,469 Number of bottles of water  
saved with the AP refillable  
water station.

4,400 Number of tiles used in the AP  
auction art.

123 Number of dozens of eggs sold  
to the Omni community.



# OMNI BY THE NUMBERS

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400 Number of superworms eaten by Mystery, the Red Maple classroom's leopard Gecko.

1000 Number of cranes folded across the Upper Elementary classrooms.

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1000+ Number of hours spent outside across all classrooms and programs.

36 Number of presentations completed by the Ginkgo class.

5 Number of finished plays written, directed, and performed by the Sassafra class.



82 Number of students who participated in after-school programs (aftercare, enrichment, athletics).

4 Number of robots built in Robotics Club.

5 Number of Omni sports teams including basketball and soccer.

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# OMNI BY THE NUMBERS

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55 Highest score achieved in speedball in Upper Elementary.

32 Number of feet in the Upper Elementary egg drop.

15 Number of chapter books completed in the Sycamore class book club.



54 Number of eggs laid by Loretta in the Poplar classroom.

40 Hours spent weeding the Magnolia classroom garden.

245 Countries and states alphabetized in the Sweetgum classroom.

34+ Number of crickets eaten by Martha the Dogwood classroom's Mexican Red Knee Tarantula.

8 Number of additional languages spoken in Omni classrooms outside of English and Spanish.

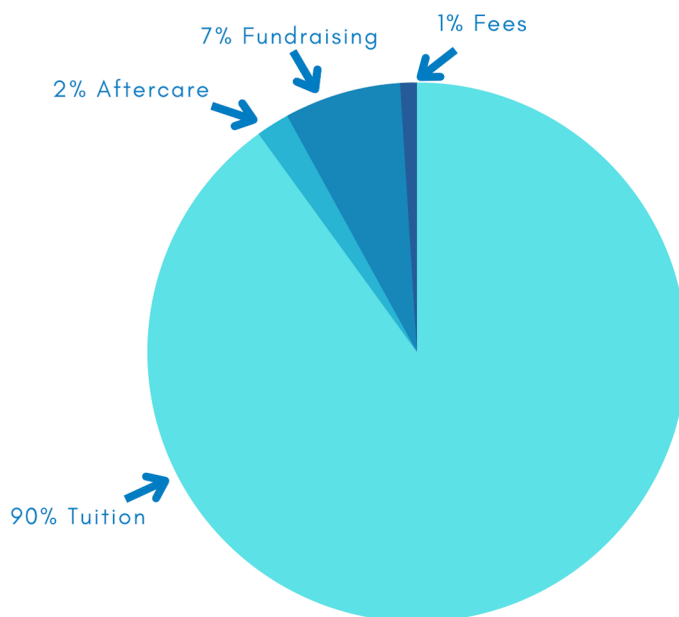


# FINANCIAL REPORT

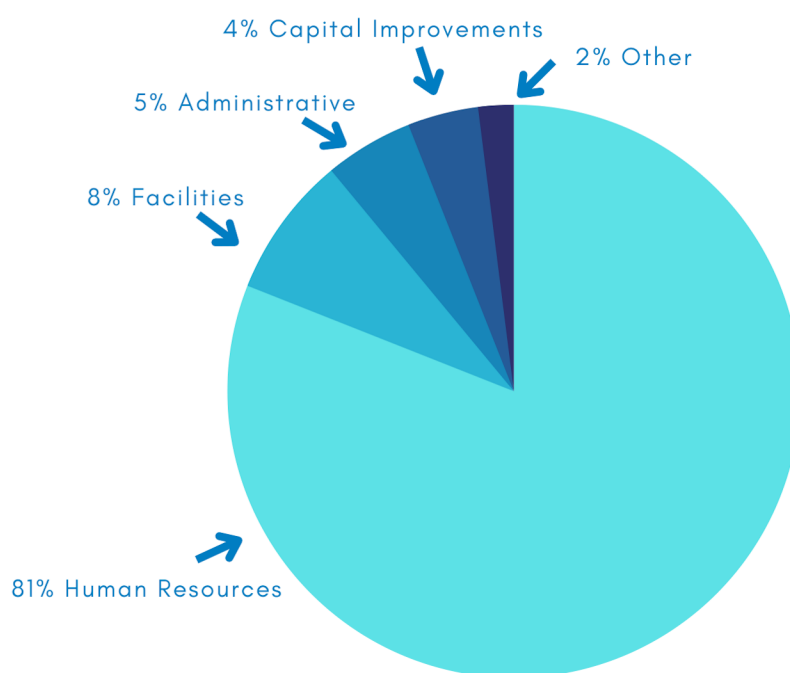
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WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM



WHERE THE MONEY WENT



# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



## **Dear Friends,**

As I wrap-up my second year at Omni Montessori School, I am still in awe of the generous spirit of the Omni Community. I can speak on behalf of the faculty and staff when I say, our hearts are filled with gratitude for each of you.

Last year I highlighted our goal shattering achievement with the Annual Giving Campaign, and I am pleased to share we continue to go above and beyond. The Omni Community donated nearly \$104,000 during the 2022-2023 Annual Giving Campaign. Each dollar raised provides critical and unrestricted support to Omni's operating budget, impacting every student and guide, every day.

In March we came together for Omni Montessori School's Annual Auction – the World Awaits, at the beautiful Clebourne House in Fort Mill, SC. This was truly a magical evening of community and celebration. The proceeds from our Auction, like those of the Annual Giving Campaign, represent a significant component of the annual operating budget of our school. All the items auctioned were donated by businesses in our surrounding communities and by school families. I am thrilled to share we grossed nearly \$74,000 during this year's event.

We recognize the generosity of the Omni Community is a special gift which allows Omni Montessori School to achieve its mission of empowering children in a community faithful to the teachings of Maria Montessori. Thank you for allowing us to create this special space for your students.

It is with heartfelt thanks that I once again express my sincerest appreciation for your commitment to Omni Montessori School. I look forward to the next steps we will take together in the growth of Omni Montessori School. In the words of Margaret Meade, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed; it's the only thing that ever has."

## **With thanks,**

Hannah Earnhardt

*Director of Development*



# ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Through the support of our board, Omni families, friends, and alumni, **nearly \$104,000** was raised and pledged through the **Annual Giving Campaign**. The generosity of many positively impacts the lives of our students and our guides. Whether it's through financial aid, updates to the learning environments, campus maintenance, or professional development, each dollar makes a difference. Thank you!

## RESPECT \$5,000-\$9,999

Patrick & Cindy Curry  
Nikki Eason  
The Hendrix Family

## HONOR \$1,985-\$4,999

The Baudhuin Family  
Aurora Brick  
Jason Brick  
The Cotman Family  
The Gutierrez Family  
The McDaniel Family  
The Oakley Family  
The Obertan Family  
Greg & Charlene Patrell  
The Percy Family  
The Shaw Family  
Jared & Kiran Smith

## CELEBRATION \$1,000-\$1,984

The Cabral Family  
Steve Cashdollar  
The Cassidy Family  
Jeanne & Ken Dowd  
The Hemlers  
The Hu Family  
The Kashyap Family  
The Lombard Family  
The Malison Financial Group, LLC  
Cordelia, Wells, Jennifer, & Matt McCusker  
Barry & Lee Ann McGinnis  
Kajel & Ambarish Mhaskar  
The Naik Family  
The Nicolette Family  
Amit & Sara Patel  
Stacy & Minty Ralston  
Hannah & Murray Rankin  
Denis Ryzhikov & Olga Ryzhikova  
The Singh Family  
The Smith Family

Rick & Savannah Tanner  
Setu & Zach Seivers  
The Sturgeon Family  
The Trimmer Family  
The Upadhyay Family  
The Watkins Family

## JOY \$500-\$999

Mr. and Mrs. Andriotis  
Anonymous  
The Arora Family  
Hemal Badiani  
Joe & Susannah Beach  
Kate Brown  
The Cai Family  
Barbara & Ted Carpenter  
Stephen & Suzanna Dawes  
The Graham Family  
The Jaimes Family  
The Jayaseelan Family  
The Kendrick Family  
The Lombard Family  
The Maghdouri Family  
The Mansour Family  
The McEvoy Family  
The Milan Family  
The Montiel Family  
Brevard S. Myers Jr.  
Brandon, Ellen, and Christian Olson  
Omni Loving Family (The Orners)  
Anish and Anjana Patel  
The Phillips Family  
The Pride Family  
Amanda & Fernando Sabates  
Jeffrey & Karen Schwartz  
The Smolczynski Family  
The Strubbe Family  
Juan Carlos Velasco and Claudia Rojas  
The Wilson Family  
The Yang Family  
The Zape Family  
The Zhang Family  
The Zu Family



# ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

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## DISCOVERY \$250-\$499

The Becker Family  
The Bell Family  
The Brand Family  
The Buckner Family  
The Caffery-Draa Family  
Frank and Donna Carboneau  
The Connors Family  
The Coscia Family  
The Cristini Family  
Dr. Brynn Dombroski with Maxwell Leadership Team  
The Duer Family  
Hannah & Douglas Earnhardt  
The Eskind Family  
Kenny & Clark Florian  
Tom & Becky Giblin  
The Gronemeyer Family  
The Hawse Family  
The Hussels Family  
The Jacobson Family  
The Jambusaria Family  
Nate & Melissa Jesse  
The Jordan Family  
The Leavenworth Family  
The McLaughlin Family  
Preston A. Morgan  
The Nandi Family  
Randi Odom  
Nish and Gemi Patel  
The Pinnamaneni Family  
The Quinn Family  
Kati Roy  
Charlie Schreiner  
Monica Simpson  
The Smith Family  
Valerie & John Stratton  
Labeebah Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Kevin Trimmer  
Blake and Lindsay Van Leer  
Rowan Webster  
The Wick Family  
The Zino Family

## FRIENDSHIP - \$249 AND BELOW

Holli, Kilian, & Leo Andrews  
Anonymous  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Banks  
The Book Rack  
The Bruce Family

Margot Caffery-Draa's Grandmother  
Lilian Capel  
The Chianese Family  
Daisy Corbett  
Ms. Cecilia  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Davidson  
The Ewing Family  
The Fair & Micetich Family  
Lea & Mike Finegan  
The Fink Family  
The Gonnelli Family  
Raquel Gonzalez  
Sarah Hagerty  
The Johnson Family  
Veronica Kocak  
Neil & Jessica Kohler  
Mark Laughner  
Lori Lauman  
The Lavie Rodriguez Family  
James and Kulpreet Liu  
Amy & Tony Losasso  
Jess Lovins  
The Martinez Family  
Betsy Martinez  
Darcy McDonnell  
Mary McDonough  
Daxxton McGee  
Timothy McGinnis  
Liliana Milan  
John, Sharon & Ethan Mudd  
The Nagaraja Family  
Lynn Nielsen  
The Novitsky Family  
Kristen O'Reilly  
Esther Orner  
The Ortiz-Kostur Family  
Connie Pendergast  
CJ Pflaging  
Clay Pflaging  
Mary Beth Pflaging  
Bhumika Rajdev  
The Sebestyen Family  
Jeff & Megan Sharp  
Pamela Shaw  
The Spangenberg Family  
Betsy & Jon Strubbe  
Lavanya Suresh  
Jennifer Tamalone  
Alec and Mayleng Watson

# THE WORLD AWAITS

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## AN EVENING OF COMMUNITY AND CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Clebourne House

The Omni Montessori School Annual Auction is one of the school's signature fundraisers. Through the support of our generous sponsors, ticket registration, silent auction, live auction, and donations from the Omni Community, the school grossed nearly \$74,000. The money raised through the Annual Auction enables the school to further its mission of empowering children in a community faithful to the teachings of Maria Montessori. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2022-2023 Annual Auction. We appreciate YOU!

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Photos by Angie McHenry

# THE WORLD AWAITS

Thank you to our sponsors. You are out of this world!

## BENEFACTOR



## OMNI PARTNER



MALISON FINANCIAL  
GROUP, LLC

RAYMOND JAMES®

## OMNI CHAMPION



## OMNI PATRON



# PARENT ASSOCIATION

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The Parent Association (PA) is a volunteer body which coordinates activities, such as school-wide celebrations and community events to strengthen the Omni community. Additionally, the PA aligns with the school's core values to support faculty, staff and the student body.

The PA provides all parents the opportunity to become involved and be part of the special traditions that make Omni vibrant and unique. Thank you to the Parent Association for their commitment to Omni Montessori School!



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## **PA Officers & Committee Chairs:**

Lauren McEvoy – VP of Community Affairs

- Social Outings – Nanda Jayaseelan
- Parent Social – Elizabeth Ortiz and Ashlee McLaughlin

Jessica Jacobson – VP of Fundraising

- Book Fair – Colleen Nicol
- Restaurant Night – Ruth Jaimes
- Rewards – Angette Williams
- Merchandise – Haley Obertan

Brittany Toth – VP of Communication

- Omni Culture – Katerine Hussels and Setu Raval
- Staff Appreciation

Savannah Tanner – Treasurer & Secretary



# FACULTY AND STAFF

"We see the figure of the child who stands before us with his arms held open, beckoning humanity to follow."

- Maria Montessori, *Education and Peace*

## Faculty and Staff

*Alphabetically by last name*

**Holli Andrews** – Primary Assistant  
**Larry Barnes** – Coach for Aftercare and Lower Elementary Assistant  
**Shawwna Beggs** – Upper Elementary Assistant  
**Nikki Bidell** – Upper Elementary Assistant  
**Kate Brown** – Elementary Learning Support  
**Bria Bruce-Mensah** – Learning Coordinator  
**Jennifer Chapman** – Business Office Assistant  
**Daisy Corbett** – Administrative Assistant  
**Tricia Cotman** – Lower Elementary Assistant  
**Cindy Curry** – Head of School  
**Hannah Earnhardt** – Director of Development  
**Cecilia Estrada** – Primary Assistant  
**Nicole Fuller** – Upper Elementary Guide  
**Maria Garcia-Zabaleta** – Spanish Language Specialist  
**Donna Garrison** – Director of Finance  
**Raquel Gonzalez** – Primary Assistant  
**Sarah Hagerty** – Primary Guide  
**Crystal Jordan** – Primary Coordinator and Guide  
**Carol Kilminster** – Lower Elementary Assistant  
**Veronica Kocak** – Primary Guide  
**Amy Losasso** – Director of Admissions  
**Jess Lovins** – Adolescent Program Guide  
**Guillermo Martin** – Spanish Language Specialist  
**Darcy McDonnell** – Aftercare Coordinator and Library Coordinator  
**Liliana Milan** – Primary Assistant  
**Maria Nemeth** – Transportation Coordinator  
**Charlene Patrell** – Adolescent Program Guide  
**Connie Pendergast** – Lower Elementary Guide  
**Bhumika Rajdev** – Primary Assistant  
**Kati Roy** – Primary Guide  
**Megan Sharp** – Adolescent Program Guide  
**Monica Simpson** – Facilities Coordinator  
**Ashlyn Spangenberg** – Director of Adolescent Programs  
**Lavanya Suresh** – Upper Elementary Guide  
**Jennifer Tamalone-Breareley** – Primary Assistant  
**Jen Wallace** – Lower Elementary Guide  
**Rowan Webster** – Elementary Coordinator



# CONGRATS GRADS!



Logan Allyn Cotman



Sarah Iman Faris



Henry Matheus Fox



Oliver Charles Watkins

## Congratulations to our 9th year graduates

"I have seen that children can do much for the community. In the child is much knowledge, much wisdom. If we do not profit from it, it is only because of neglect on our part to become humble and to see the wonder of this soul and learn what the child can teach."

- Maria Montessori, *Citizen of the World*



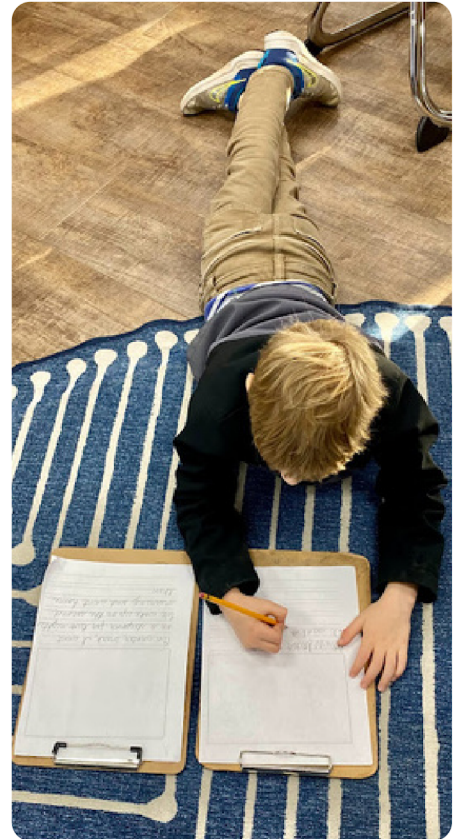
# WITH GRATITUDE



The students, faculty, and staff at Omni Montessori School benefit from the dedication and compassion of the families, caregivers, alumni, and other members of the Omni community throughout the school year who offer their time and talents during campus events and activities.

We thank each of you with all of our **hearts!**





“The satisfaction which they find in their work has given them a grace and ease like that which comes from music.”  
—Maria Montessori, *The Discovery of the Child*



## OMNI MONTESSORI SCHOOL

**Blakeney Campus**  
9536 Blakeney Heath Road  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
704-541-1326

**Waxhaw Campus**  
7118 McWhorter Road  
Waxhaw, NC 28173  
704-843-3335

[www.Omni-Montessori.org](http://www.Omni-Montessori.org)